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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,214	01/31/2001	Jinhong K. Guo	9432-000123	4228
7590	05/06/2004		EXAMINER	
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C. P.O. Box 828 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303			CHANG, JON CARLTON	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2623	
			DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/773,214	GUO, JINHONG K.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jon Chang	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 and 4.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

Response to Applicant's Amendment and Proposed Drawing Changes

1. The amendment filed January 25, 2002, has been entered and made of record.
2. The proposed drawing changes have not been approved because of the presence of new matter. The changes to Figure 3, specifically, the changes to blocks 72, 76 and 78, as well as the connecting line from block 78 (76 as proposed) to block 74 are new matter.
3. The amendment filed January 25, 2002, is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows:
 - a) The material added to the paragraph starting at page 10, line 4, and material replacing material deleted from that paragraph.
 - b) The material added to the paragraph starting at page 10, line 16, and material replacing material deleted from that paragraph.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Drawings

4. The drawings (as originally filed) are objected to because in Fig.3, the flows from blocks 70 and 74 are unclear (it is not clear under what circumstances one path is taken over the other from each of the blocks). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, at line 8, "is" should be replaced with "its".

Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-5 are allowed.

References Cited

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 4,876,728 to Roth discloses a vision system which examines run-length encodings line by line, and interrelates regions using parent, child and sibling relationships.

U.S. Patent 4,908,716 to Sakano discloses an image processing apparatus which subjects a part of a document marked with an encircled mark, to trimming or masking.

U.S. Patent 5,138,465 to Ng et al. discloses a method and apparatus for highlighting nested information areas for selective editing.

U.S. Patent 5,179,599 to Formanek teaches determines how runs in a row overlap runs of a previous row.

U.S. Patent 5,379,350 to Shimazu et al. discloses a method and apparatus for extracting a contour of an image based on run-data.

U.S. Patent 6,320,984 to Shigeta discloses an apparatus for extracting contour lines which examines connecting relationships of run data.

"Character Contour Measurements from Character Images Stored in Run-Length Form," IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, vol.26, no.10A, March 1, 1984, teaches using logical operations to compare run lengths from adjacent scan lines in order to extract contour attributes of character images.

"A Segmentation and Object Extraction Algorithm with Linear Memory and Time Constraints" by Anbalagan et al. teaches a run-length representation of an image and a linked list data structure.

Conclusion

8. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The objections to the amendment, objection to the drawings, and the objection to the claims.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon Chang whose telephone number is (703)305-8439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (703)308-6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jon Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623

Jon Chang
May 3, 2004